under the Indian Council of Medical Research has been regularly carrying out surveys on the health of workers engaged in various industries such as Cotton, Cement, Pesticides. Occasionally the National Instt. of Occupational Health also collaborates with World Health Organisation on various other projects. Whenever, ICMR comes to know about any specific health hazards, it alerts the concerned industries for taking appropriate remedial measures.

[English]

Spurious Drugs Racket in UP, MP

3378. SHRI RAM SAGAR :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Spurious drugs racket in U.P. and M.P." appearing in the Economic Times dated February 4, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Newspaper report mentions that drugs supplied by the Government of India-owned Pharmeceutical units through third parties to many of the Government hospitals in U.P., M.P. and Delhi have been found sub-standard and even spurious. The report also states that there is a network of some unscrupulous traders and dealers who connive with State Government and Company officials and supply medicines lebelled as marketed by Central Pius.

(c) The facts are being collected from the concerned State Governments on the basis of which suitable action will be taken.

[Translation]

Underground Water

3379. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Committee to review the methodology for estimation of ground water resources of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have drawn any plan to fill the underground water artificially;

(c) if so, the number of areas covered under this plan in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the estimated cost thereon during last two years?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Ground Water Board is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on studies of ground water recharge in Karnataka, Maharashtra, NCT of Delhi and Chandigarh. Besides, the Central Ground Water Board has also formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist the State Governments in Artificial recharge of Ground Water. This Scheme is at consultation stage.

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

[English]

Prevention of Food Adulteration Act

3380. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) Amending the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules thereunder is a continuing process in the effort to provide clean and wholesome food to the consumer. A Task Force under the chairmanship of Justice E.S. Venkataramaiah, Chief Justice of India (Retired) has made a number of recommendations relating to the amendment of the Act. The process of examining the recommendations has been set in motion by obtaining the views of the Central Committee for Food Standards where representatives of the State Government and experts are members.

[Translation]

Agitation against Construction of Dam on Vichhian and Vihar River

3381. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agitation against the construction of a dam over Vichhian and Vihar river of Riva Nagar is going on;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Union and State Governments on the construction of this dam?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) As reported by State Government officials no agitation is going on at present against the Construction of a dam over Vichhian and Vihar river of Rewa Nagar.